

# SECURITY - Now ...more than ever!

Cyber Security - Disaster Recovery - Continuity of Government



## DTI eSecurity News – Do You Know Where Your Personal Information Is?

### How Does Personal Information Become Public?



Each time you go online to shop, post on a social media site, or comment on a news story or blog, you are providing personal information about yourself. The same is true when you create or author publicly available documents, such as reports, news releases, or PowerPoint presentations. Other common sources of information about individuals are public records such as property tax information, court proceedings, and geographic locators, such as Google Earth.

### What Information About You Is Available?

It can be shocking how much information is collected about you and publicly available. Search engines will help you do a quick query of your public information.



Data service sites, such as [Spokeo](#) and [Pipl](#), have massive amounts of data compiled from a variety of sources, including public records and social networking sites about individuals. This data can be used by credit issuers, criminal profilers, employers, and others for any number of purposes, not necessarily intended by the data service provider.

*Produced in part from [MS-ISAC](#)*

### Clean Up the Data You Can Control



Information that you post on the Internet, such as social networking profiles and related information, is public but is still within your control. In addition, there could be information about you on old blog postings, postings on a friend's website, a dating profile, picture sharing account, or any other service that was useful to you at some point but are now no longer necessary to you. Clean up the data that you have control over.

#### REVIEW ACCOUNTS YOU HAVE ACCESS TO BY...

- Removing the data.
- Modifying the privacy settings.
- Requesting that the account be deleted.
  - ⇒ If you request the account be deleted, *be sure to first remove all the data.*
  - ⇒ Be sure to request the account be *deleted* rather than *deactivated*.

*Be aggressive about routinely checking your public data and removing items which don't match your current risk tolerance.*

### Request Cleanup of Data You Don't Control

#### Contact site owners:

If the site does not have easily visible contact information for the site owners, look it up using the "[WHOIS](#)" service to give you an administrative and technical contact for the site.

#### Opt out of data service providers:

A data service provider is a company that will provide lists of contact information to individuals or companies that request it, often charging a fee for the information. In many cases, data service providers offer the ability to opt out of publishing data about individuals. Keep in mind, these services are aggregators, so it is likely you will have to contact the original source provider of the information to remove your information. The [Privacy Rights Clearinghouse](#) publishes opt-out URLs for several of these types of services.

#### Use a professional service:

If there is misinformation being posted about you that you cannot remove, consider using a professional service. They will constantly search for, analyze, and remove data that you don't want public.

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Questions or comments?

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